

Record of Officer Decision

Local Government Reorganisation (LGR): Torbay Response to the Statutory Consultation on Proposals for LGR in Devon, Plymouth and Torbay

Decision Taker and Date Decision Taken:

Chief Executive, in consultation with the Leader of the Council, on 24 March 2026.

Summary of Matter or Issue Requiring Decision:

On 5 February the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government launched a statutory consultation to seek views on proposals received for unitary local government reorganisation for Devon, Plymouth and Torbay.

The consultation was to consider five proposals from Devon councils. In addition to (1) Torbay's own proposal, the consultation included proposals from: (2) Devon County Council; (3) South Hams District Council, Teignbridge District Council and West Devon Borough Council; (4) East Devon District Council, Mid Devon District Council, North Devon Council and Torridge District Council; and (5) Exeter City Council and Plymouth City Council.

The consultation ran for 7 weeks and was scheduled to conclude on 26 March 2026.

Before implementing a proposal, the Government has a statutory requirement to consult any local authority affected by the proposal (but which has not submitted it).

As a named consultee Torbay Council was invited to submit its views on the proposals submitted by other Devon councils.

The constitution of Torbay Council confers on the Chief Executive, in consultation with the relevant member, responsibility for responding on behalf of the Council to such consultations.

Decision Taken:

That Torbay Council's response to the statutory consultation for proposals for local government reorganisation in Devon (including Plymouth and Torbay) be submitted.

Summary of Reason(s) for Decision Taken:

Firstly, to respond to the Government's invitation to participate in the consultation as a named consultee. Secondly, to formally represent and record Torbay's position on the alternative proposals for LGR submitted by other Devon councils, based upon the options appraisal contained within Torbay Council's proposal for local government reorganisation in Devon.

Summary of Alternatives or Options considered and rejected and Background Papers:

An alternative option would have been not to submit a response to the consultation. This option was discounted as Torbay was a named consultee. Additionally, opting not to respond would not meet the interests, needs and wishes of Torbay's residents.

Details of any conflict of interest and dispensation granted to the Officer taking the decision or by any Member of the Council in delegating responsibility for any specific

express delegation:

None.

Implementation:

This decision will be implemented immediately.

A copy of this decision and any supporting documentation considered by the Officer taking this decision may also be available for inspection by the public at the Council's offices or posted upon payment of any copying and postage charges. Any member of the public wishing to take up either of these options is asked to please ring (01803) 207087 or email governance.support@torbay.gov.uk

Signed: _____ Date: 25 March 2026
(Chief Executive)